



**Feasibility Study
US 60/GRAND AVENUE (LOOP 303 TO LOOP 101)
ADOT Project No. H 7327 01L**

MEETING SUMMARY

**Grand Avenue Working Group – Meeting No. 2 of 5
November 29, 2007
Dysart Community Center, El Mirage**

Working Group Members Present:	Working Group Members Absent:
Ben Roloff, Sun City HOA	Cheryl Street, NW Valley Chamber of Commerce
Bob Jones, Sun City West PORA	Doug Doede, El Mirage
Chuck Ullman, Sun City West PORA	
Dave McGrew, Surprise	
Gary Bourne, Sun City HOA	
Jim Schuh, Youngtown	
Larry Ornelius, Youngtown	
Norm Dickson, Recreation Centers of Sun City	
Phil Gordon, NW Valley Chamber of Commerce	
Ralph Reaser, El Mirage	
Dan Edwards, Surprise	
Jim McAllister, Sun Health	
Phil Hanson, WESTMARC	

ADOT Study Team Members Present:
Mike Delleo, ADOT Sr. Project Manager
Leanne Cairns, ADOT Project Coordinator
Mike Kies, DMJM Harris Project Manager
Dr. Marty Rozelle, Meeting Co-facilitator
Sue Lewin, Meeting Co-facilitator
Jim Lewin, Meeting Coordinator

1. Meeting Co-facilitator Sue Lewin opened the meeting with introductions. She stated the purpose of the meeting, which was to review input received from the general public at recent open houses and further discuss and define the community concerns identified at the previous meeting and correlate them with criteria that can be used to evaluate the proposed Grand Avenue projects. She also described the composition of the ADOT study team, which includes engineers, planners and project support staff from ADOT and its consultants, as well as representatives from the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG), Maricopa County Department of Transportation (MCDOT), the cities of Surprise and El Mirage, and the town of Youngtown.
2. ADOT Senior Project Manager Mike Delleo provided a summary of the agency and public input that has been received to date, including the input received from the pair of community meetings held in November in Sun City and Surprise. A copy of Mr. Delleo's slide presentation is included as an attachment to these meeting minutes.

3. DMJM Harris Project Manager Mike Kies and Meeting Co-facilitator Dr. Marty Rozelle lead a Working Group discussion about the concerns heard from the community regarding Grand Avenue and how those concerns can yield creation of measurable criteria to evaluate potential projects. A summary of that discussion follows:
 - Gary Bourne suggested the design option of the railroad going over the side streets. He said he felt this would be a cost effective design that has been used several times in the past and asked that it be considered in the design process of any interchanges. ADOT Project Manager Mike Delleo said he doubted the BNSF Railroad would be in favor of such an option but that he would discuss it with them at the next ADOT coordination meeting with the Railroad.
 - Chuck Ulman expressed his concern that the interchange at Meeker/Reems had been designated a low priority by the City of Surprise. He said he feels that it is an important interchange.
 - Dan Edwards acknowledged his understanding that \$64 million has been allocated to Phase II by MAG. He asked about the cost of the identified projects. Mike Kies reviewed the Working Group process and explained that the Group was at the point of determining criteria to weight the projects. Mike added that engineering data and costs will be discussed at a future meeting.
 - Ben Roloff asked what data was used by MAG to determine the \$64 million allocated to Phase II. Sue Lewin explained that this decision was determined at the time when the Regional Transportation Plan was developed, and that MAG had to consider all of the projects brought forward by the member agencies. Preliminary data was used to decide which projects would be included and what dollar amount could be allocated. The result was a regionally balanced program.
 - Ralph Reaser asked Mike Kies if the traffic counts had been determined for Grand Avenue, and when would the data be shared with the Working Group. Mike explained that some traffic counts had been determined, and additional traffic count data is still being gathered. Mike shared that the data would be provided to the group at the future meeting along with other engineering data.
 - Larry Ornelis expressed his concern for interchanges being considered for both 103rd Ave. and 107th Ave. He felt it would be prudent to consider one or the other so funding can be used for other projects along Grand Avenue.
 - Jim Schuh followed up Larry's comment by suggesting the Group needs to decide which is more important, 103rd Ave. or 107th Ave.
 - Dave McGrew asked Mary Rozelle if the intent of today's meeting was to establish the criteria the Group will use to prioritize the projects, not to make decisions. Marty agreed and reminded the Group that they will make recommendations at future meetings. These recommendations will be carried forward to the ADOT study team.
 - Dan Edwards expressed his concern for the need for improvements to Thunderbird Road. He asked if flyovers would be a design option for the intersections being

considered. Mike Kies discussed grade separations and verified with Dan that a grade separation was what Dan meant by a flyover.

- Phil Hanson cited the new overpasses at 43rd Ave. and 27th Ave. as examples of an interchange.
4. Dr. Marty Rozelle lead a discussion to further define the evaluation criteria in each of the specific areas noted below:

Delay

- Marty asked Mike Kies how traffic delay would be measured in an engineering design. Mike explained that intersections are graded on an A to F scale based on the number of seconds that an average vehicle is delayed.
- Phil Hanson asked if the railroad would be included in a delay study. Mike Kies said it would be considered.
- Chuck Ullman expressed his concern over averaging and said he does not feel that averaging can portray an accurate representation.
- Dave McGrew asked if delays were measured at peak periods. Mike Kies said they were. Dave also asked if other future projects such as the railroad maintenance yard are taken into consideration. This was confirmed by Mike Kies.

Safety

- Marty asked Mike Kies how safety is measured in an engineering design. Mike explained that safety is measured by the number on conflict points, i.e., existing conflict points, known future projects and the existing railroad.
- Chuck Ullman asked if the speed of vehicles on Grand Ave. or crossing Grand Ave. would be considered. Mike Kies commented that projects are built based on safe design speed. Mike said the differential speed of vehicles on or crossing Grand Ave. would be the safety consideration for this study.
- Gary Bourne mentioned that bullet under Safety on page 5 of the October 17 draft meeting minutes “Traffic flow on and off Grand safely at frontage roads” should be changed to “Traffic flow on and off Grand Avenue.” The Group agreed.
- Ben Roloff asked if the widening of Grand Avenue would increase the number of conflict points. Mike Kies said it might, if additional vehicles began using Grand Avenue because of the improvements.

Traffic Flow

- The Group discussed traffic flow and decided their previous concerns were essentially delay issues.

Access

- Marty commented that access to hospitals was a major concern to the Group in the October meeting. She asked Jim McAllister to share his thoughts on access to hospitals. Jim expressed that access was more of a concern to Emergency Medical Services (EMS) providers as they are the ones that transport patients to the hospitals. He suggested that EMS providers should be contacted for their input as it would provide a better representation.
- Norm Dickson stated that the business owners on Grand Ave. such as Phil Gordon and Dave McGrew have concerns about access as it would affect their businesses. Norm said recreation is the business of a retirement area such as Sun City. He shared that access to their recreation facilities is as important as access to businesses.
- Mike Kies said that access would be a qualitative measurement, i.e., high, medium or low.

Equity/Fairness

- Marty closed by asking if equity or fairness could be considered as a criterion. The group had no definitive response.
5. The Working Group members agreed to let the ADOT Study Team further define the evaluation criteria and associated measurements for each category prior to the January 2008 meeting. The Team leaders committed to providing the Working Group members an opportunity to review the criteria and associated measurements via e-mail prior to the January meeting.
 6. At the next meeting, which is scheduled for January 30 at the Dysart Community Center in El Mirage, the Study Team will employ a computer-based technology to have the Working Group members assign values/weights to the evaluation criteria and relate the criteria to the potential future projects that are being considered for Grand Avenue.
 7. Sue Lewin requested the Group to review the October 17 Draft Meeting Minutes and provide any corrections within the next two days to Jim Lewin, so they could be finalized and be posted on the ADOT Web site.

Action Items:

1. Provide evaluation criteria and measurements to the Working Group members via e-mail prior to the January 30, 2008 meeting – Mike Kies and Marty Rozelle through Jim Lewin
2. Provide copy of Meeting Minutes to Study Team and Working Group Members – Jim Lewin